

# NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



## AS I SEE IT

### **Transforming Education in North Carolina**

*October 13, 2010*

One of the most important goals we have for North Carolina's system of public education is to graduate every student prepared for college, technical training and a career. Achieving this goal will not only benefit students, it will also enable us to build a skilled, qualified workforce that will attract new and growing businesses that sustain a healthy economy. This is why Governor Bev Perdue created the state's first Education Transformation Commission. I am honored to chair the commission and to serve alongside 25 talented dedicated leaders from state and local government, public and charter schools, school districts, universities, businesses, nonprofits and other respected education organizations. Over the next four years, staff at the Department of Public Instruction, as well as teachers and administrators in local school districts, will be working on a number of groundbreaking initiatives including:

- New research-supported teacher preparation, recruitment and licensure programs;
- Expansion of virtual and blended teaching;
- Statewide professional development system and teacher and principal evaluation systems;
- Transition to new statewide curriculum which includes Common Core State Standards;
- Development and implementation of a comprehensive, balanced assessment system;
- Utilization of innovative school models, performance incentives and other targeted approaches to turn around lowest-achieving schools; and
- Creating new data systems to improve instruction.

This work carries with it great responsibility and the need for simultaneous coordination and oversight of multiple statewide and local initiatives. To do this, representatives from every sector and every level of public education must continue to share the same goals, agree on the course ahead, discuss challenges and concerns, and work together to move Gov. Perdue's "Career and College: Ready, Set, Go!" agenda forward in our state. The Education Transformation Commission will allow for this important communication and collaboration and provide clear guidance for all of the state's Race to the Top work.

There is no question that Race to the Top will bring many opportunities to the state's 2,500 public and charter schools and almost 1.5 million students. Yet, the work we will do over the next four years with these grant funds will also change the face of public education for generations of students to come. I look forward to leading the Education Transformation Commission as we work together to accomplish our goals and to provide all North Carolina students the best public education possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill".

Bill Harrison, Chairman  
State Board of Education